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News Release

For Immediate Release

Annual Bike to Work Week is May 13-17

Springfield's annual Bike to Work Week returns May 13-17. Ozark Greenways hosts this fun annual event to invite area residents to leave their car behind at least one day this week and commute by biking, walking, taking the bus, carpooling, telecommuting or any combination. Participants register through their businesses and schools at ozarkgreenways.org.

Prizes and trophies are awarded to businesses and schools with the highest participation. All registered participants receive a Panera Bread voucher for a free bagel and coffee or cookie. Free bus vouchers are available through Ozark Greenways for Springfield City Utilities bus riders traveling with their bike during Bike to Work Week. For those who need to freshen up after commuting, free shower and towel use is available at the Ward Branch/Downtown YMCA, the Pat Jones YMCA, all area Cox Fitness Centers including the Meyer Center; and the Park Board's three Family Centers: Chesterfield, Doling and Dan Kinney.

Alternative transportation resources continue to grow in the Springfield area, contributing to improved public health, air and water quality; reduced traffic congestion; enhanced quality of life and economic benefits.

Alternative transportation infrastructure now includes 68 miles of Ozark Greenways trails, 60 miles of designated on-street Springfield bike routes and city buses equipped with bike racks. Bicycle commuters have more options than ever, as the City of Springfield has recently tripled the city's designated on-street bike route system, earning Director of Public Works Phil Broyles the Missouri Bicycling & Pedestrian Federation's 2013 Distinguished Service Award. A bike route map is available at springfieldmo.gov/traffic/pdfs/BIKE_ROUTE.pdf.

In addition to existing bike routes, "The Link," the city's new north-south biking and walking corridor, will connect Doling Park to Cox South by the end of the year. Details are at springfieldmo.gov/planning/link.html. Development of Ozark Greenways' "Let's Go Smart" campaign also continues, promoting use of the City of Springfield's alternative transportation choices at letsgosmart.org

Bike to Work Week's goal is to highlight Springfield's current alternative transportation options and support future expansion. The public is asked to participate in this event to show support for the alternative transportation. Public participation is vital to future planning and fundraising.

Bike to Work Week kicks off with the day-long Bicycles & Brews event Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., at downtown Springfield's Park Central Square, hosted by English Management. Coordinated bike rides begin at 9 a.m., led by Ozark Greenways Executive Director Terry Whaley, Springfield Public Works Traffic Engineer David Hutchison and "Tour

de Link" with Mike the Intern, from 104.7FM The Cave. Live music and festivities begin at 11 a.m., with the Square closed to automobile traffic. Bicycles & Brews also showcases the international Bicycle Film Festival at the Gillioz Theatre. Details are available at bicyclesbrews.com.

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